

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

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COUNTRY **East Germany**REPORT SUBJECT **Changes in the Ministry of Transport**DATE DISTR. **13 June 1955**NO. OF PAGES **1**DATE OF INFO. REQUIREMENT NO. **RD**PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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1. On 21 or 22 April 1955 Klaus Hielscher, Head of the Finance Section of the Ministry for Transport and Georg Thiede, Head of the Bookkeeping Department of the same Ministry were summarily dismissed (fristlos entlassen) on grounds of being responsible for the enormous losses in revenue suffered by the East German Reichsbahn. Their dismissals resulted from a Kollegium meeting at which Guenther Mittag, liaison officer between Minister Erwin Kramer and the Central Committee of the SED, demanded that the individuals responsible for the financial losses of the Reichsbahn in the past two years be held responsible and punished. Only two days earlier, Minister Kramer had praised the two dismissed employees for their ability and loyalty.
2. Hielscher's post remained vacant as of 29 April, with no candidates for appointment having been mentioned. Thiede has been temporarily replaced by Heinz Kleinert, a former naval officer and convinced SED member.
3. In an attempt to curtail expenses in the Ministry, officials of lower echelons have had their salaries cut. In some instances, this amounted to as much as 250 DME per month. This measure is being justified entirely on grounds of an attempt to economize. No similar cuts have been proposed for higher-ranking officials.

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